The Southern PATRIOT

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JOE PALOOKA SAYS
Our Way of Life Means
EQUAL JOB OPPORTUNITY for Everyone,
Regardless of Race, Religion,
Color or National Origin

POSTAL TRUCK POSTER . . . let's make it true

SCEF COMMENDS NIXON, URGES FILIBUSTER BAN

In a telegram sent to Vice-President Nixon on Dec. 28, Aubrey Williams, president of the SCEF, expressed the fund's appreciation of the posters which appeared on U. S. mail trucks—in the South as well as the North, affirming the right of all Americans to jobs without discrimination because of religion, color or national origin.

Williams' message continued:

"We look forward to the day when this ideal of fair employment practices is written into law as a standard of national morality. Passage by the 85th Congress of such a law and of all civil rights legislation, including protection of the right to vote, will depend largely upon your ruling as to whether or not the Senate can change its rules, especially rule 22 on cloture.

"At a time when our country is so deeply concerned, and rightfully so, about freedom in Hungary and the Near East, we urge you to use the prestige and power of your high office to help make freedom meaningful in Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana.

"On behalf of the Silent South now without representation in Congress we appeal to you by your ruling to help restore majority rule in the Senate."

By Bombs' Light, Hope Is Seen

The echo of shots and dynamite blasts has been almost continuous throughout the South since mid-December. The cruelest, most shocking episode occurred in Birmingham, Ala., Christmas night, when the home of Rev. F. L. Shuttlesworth was badly damaged, injuring his two young children and a neighbor. (Shuttlesworth, leader of the drive to integrate buses in that city, rode the bus home after taking the bomb victims to the hospital—and he sat in front.)

There was also the wounding of a pregnant woman by a sniper in Montgomery, Ala., who has endangered the lives of bus passengers and drivers on at least five occasions with promiscuous rifle fire.

FLASH—On January 10 between 2 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. 6 blasts rocked Montgomery, doing extensive damage to the homes of the Rev. Robert Graetz and the Rev. Ralph Abernathy, and to 4 Baptist churches.

Such loathsome violence in the season of good will recalls the dynamite slaying of Harry Moore in Florida three years ago—and perhaps out of the comparison comes the one note of cheer that can be found.

The murderers of the Florida NAACP leader remain at large. The atrocity caused relatively small stir nationally. No one spelled out the obligation the federal government had to bring such dangerous bigotry under control.

But now there is a difference. Every incident — whatever its consequences— gains wide press attention over the nation, and the frequency of the incidents is heightening public concern everywhere.

One reason for the change is the simplicity of the issue which has provoked the bigots to lawlessness: the right to sit where one chooses on a transit bus is almost beyond question in the civilized world, South Africa excepted.

Another, more impelling cause has been the rise of spontaneous, tenacious, disciplined, dignified mass movements in the Negro communities in the South. The leadership of the Montgomery boycott, after gaining victory in the U.S. Supreme Court, dumfounded the country by urging their community to ignore all incitements to anger, to turn the other cheek on violence. And the Negroes of Montgomery have done so.

With a national administration whose members regularly gather at a Presbyterian church, with a Congress which recently established a meditation room for prayer, with a national pledge of allegience in which the words "under God" have been inserted, this application of religious spirit to everyday life could not be ignored.

Therefore, when the 85th Congress opened on January 3, the prospects for civil rights legislation looked brighter than in a decade.

The barriers to such laws have been Senate Rule 22 and the tacit liaison between conservative Republicans and the Southern bloc. Rule 22 forbids the shutting off of debate except at the behest of two-thirds of the total membership of the Senate. This slack rule—which was amended in 1949 to state that absolutely NO limit could be placed on any discussion of Senate rules themselves—has permitted filibusters to kill all rights bills in the past. (Since Rule 22 was adopted in 1917 it has been invoked successfully only four times, none of which involved civil rights.)

The only approach open to filibuster opponents has been to contend that on the opening day of a new Congress there are no rules governing the Senate and that a whole new set—including a new 22—can be adopted by simple majority vote. However, the late Senator Taft espoused the doctrine that the Senate was a "continuing body" and that the rules of one Senate session carried over to the other, unless specifically amended. This interpretation is followed by many Republicans.

So, in 1953, When Senator Anderson of New Mexico made a motion to adopt new rules he was voted down, 70-21.

But on Jan. 4 of this year, when the same motion came before the Senate, it lost by only 55-38. What is more, Vice-President Nixon, a notably astute gauge of popular sentiment, was moved to say during the course of debate that the

(Continued on Page 4.)

'This We Believe'--An Important Pamphlet. See Page 3.

SOUTHERN CONTRAST: KING VS KASPER

Before a crowd of fewer than 100 in Louisville, Ky., the wandering professional race-baiter John Kasper described his doings in Clinton, Tenn., and his philosophy in general:

"Just some nigger gals got shaken up when we . . . when they rocked their cars. But no real harm was done.

"Niggers may have souls, I don't argue the point. If they have, well, they might be saved. I don't know. But the nigger's sole adaption is agricultural. Niggers can plow and that is all they can do."

He rounded off his Dec. 12 address by asserting that the Jews ran the NAACP and that a whole array of national figures from President Eisenhower down were Communist-influenced.

By contrast, some 10,000 Negroes in Montgomery, Ala., heard Rev. M. L. King, Jr., comment on the Supreme Court order ending bus segregation with these words:

"We have been going to the back of the bus for so long there is a danger that we will instinctively go back there again and perpetuate segregation. Just sit down where a seat is convenient . . . . I would be terribly disappointed if any of you go back to the buses bragging. 'We, the Negroes, won a victory over the white people.' . . . I hope nobody will go back with undue arrogance. If you do, our struggle will be lost all over the South. Go back with humility and meekness. . . ."

Thus speak the leaders of two opposing factions in the South. Can anyone still support the old chestnut that there are extremists on "both" sides? Can anyone doubt which side should prevail?

'Fear Is Like Frost' In S. C.

In Camden, S. C., a white high school band leader was ambushed by a group of men, tied to a tree, and beaten for allegedly having made pro-integrationist speeches before a local Lions Club. The victim, aged 52, denied any such remarks.

The significance of the sordid episode was aptly summed up the following Sunday, Dec. 30, at the Grace Episcopal Church in Camden, when the Rev. Styles B. Lyons declared:

"Fear covers South Carolina like the frost. Men are afraid to speak up. There is no freedom of speech except for those who choose to run with the pressure groups."

Courts Tackle Major Rights Cases

Last month the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld the right of Negroes to use the city-operated pool and beach at St. Petersburg, Fla. In rejecting the city's brief, the three-judge panel said:

"It is no answer to say that the beach and pool cannot be operated at a profit on a non-segregated basis, and that the city will be forced to close the pool.

"Of course, financial loss cannot justify illegal operation, and, unfortunate as closing the pool may be, that furnishes no ground for abridging the rights of the appellees to its use without discrimination on the grounds of race so long as it is operated."

Judge Richard Rives, a native of Montgomery, Ala., wrote the decision.

An 84-year-old federal judge in Dallas refused for the second time to order integration in public schools there. On the first occasion Judge William H. Atwell made his ruling without hearing testimony. The Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals sent the case back to be tried on its merits. Last month Atwell declared:

"I believe it will be seen that the U.S. Supreme Court based its (desegregation) decision on no law but rather on what the court regarded as more authoritative, modern psychological knowledge than existed at the time that the now discarded doctrine of equal facilities was initiated. It will be recalled that in 1952 Justice Frankfurter . . . said it is not competent to take judicial notice of 'claims of social scientists.'"

This ruling will be appealed.

On Jan. 28 will begin the trial of the 16 segregationists charged with contempt of federal court for their part in the Clinton (Tenn.) school disorders.

Since this Knoxville case represents the first time federal authorities have moved to enforce desegregation and the first time the White Citizens Councils have run afoul the law, its outcome will have the greatest importance.

In Kentucky, legal pressure was kept on the communities of Clay and Sturgis, where school boards ejected Negro students after having permitted them to enroll in formerly all-white schools.

Federal Judge Henry Brooks directed the boards to submit desegregation plans by Feb. 4. At that time Brooks said he would hold hearing on a request for a permanent injunction ordering immediate integration.

The old Dominion has lost two rounds in its fight to preserve segregation. On Dec. 31 the U. S. 4th Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the two district court injunctions directing Charlottesville and Arlington to desegregate their schools. And on January 11th U. S. District Judge Walter E. Hoffman ruled that Virginia's new pupil placement law, was "unconstitutional on its face."

Koinonia Farm Still Stands Despite Peril

In Americus, Ga., the ordeal of Koinonia Farm continues. A recent report from that embattled community tells of its roadside market being riddled with 55 bullets, of credit being cut off by the bank, or inability to buy butane gas for heating. (See SP for Sept. and Oct., 1956, for accounts of how pressure was brought to bear on the farm because its director, the Rev. Clarence Jordan, sought to assist Negro applicants to the University of Georgia business school.)

The farm, which pioneered the thriving egg industry in the area, has been obliged to sell off its flocks. It is now seeking to earn some revenue by offering produce to mail purchasers. Koinonia will ship, postpaid east of the Rockies, smoked hams, sausage, beef tongues, hens and turkeys. Pecans and peanuts are also available.

The quality of these items would make them worthy of consideration, in any case. Readers should write Koinonia Farm, Rt. 2, Americus, Ga., for a price list.

La. WCC To Extend 'Operation Cleanup'

The failure of a federal grand jury in Monroe, La., to return any indictments in its investigation of voting abuses, has emboldened the head of the White Citizens Council, State Sen. William Rainach, to announce that "operation cleanup" will be tried all over Louisiana.

In Ouachita and several other northern parishes (counties) the WCC employed the device of having voting registrars issue mass challenges to Negro voters. Unless the Negroes complied with a complicated certification process, they were stricken from the rolls. This gimmick drew the attention of the Department of Justice and was cited before a Senate committee as an abuse of federal rights. (See SP for Nov., 1956.)

Rainach declared that "by this time next year Louisiana will be a shining example to the nation of how to thwart the NAACP."

One aspect of the Ouachita situation that may serve to slow down the scheme is the civil action still pending against the parish registrar. Two Negroes filed damage suits asking $25,000 apiece.

THIS WE BELIEVE

DESIGNED BY BEN SHAHN

An important new pamphlet setting forth the creed, the accomplishments and the objectives of

The Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc.

WE STILL believe all men are created equal . . . And that all are endowed with certain rights. We take these rights to include equality before the law and freedom from any discrimination bolstered by law; a right to vote; freedom of expression; unrestricted access to all institutions supported by taxes for the public welfare; equal pay for equal work and equal opportunity for training and employment; and the right of unsegregated transportation, housing and assembly.

For the past decade the Southern Conference Educational Fund has devoted its efforts to securing these rights for everyone—to the elimination of second-class citizenship. It now offers this background of research and regional action to all Southerners who believe that prompt compliance with the Supreme Court decision on segregation in public schools is feasible, just and advantageous to all of us.

18
PAGES
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18
PHOTOGRAPHS
☆
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. . . Such organizations as the SCEF will really bring about the change all of us hope for, not only in the South but throughout our country.

MRS. FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

. . . The SCEF is one of the valuable assets in our American life, North and South, which helps us to move with a rapidly changing world in an orderly and creative direction.

CLARENCE E. PICKETT

. . . No organization in America today is doing a more effective work in bettering human relations, than the SCEF.

BISHOP EDGAR A. LOVE

. . . In helping to eliminate segregation the SCEF is making an indispensable contribution to the cause of freedom and peace.

MADAME VIJAHA LAKSHMI PANDIT

And Comment by Many Other Distinguished Persons

(For free copies write Southern Conference Educational Fund, 822 Perdido Street, New Orleans, La.)